

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) A method of assembling steering columns, comprising the steps of:

forming a cylindrical column jacket;

forming a pair of flat surfaces back to back on an outer surface of said cylindrical column jacket;

forming a pair of joint projections comprising flat inner surfaces conforming to the pair of flat surfaces of said column jacket on a bracket;

temporarily fitting said projections of said bracket along the flat surface of said column jacket; and

crimping said projections into the flat surfaces of said column jacket, wherein a punch is applied with an inner surface of said column jacket being supported by a die so that the projections are crimped with the punch pressed toward a center of said column jacket.

3. (Currently amended) A method of assembling steering columns according to ~~claim 1~~ or claim 2, wherein in forming said a pair of joint projections, said projections are symmetrically formed with respect to the center of said bracket.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) A method of assembling steering columns according to ~~claim 1~~ or claim 2, wherein in forming said column jacket, a cylindrical column jacket is formed from a mild steel tube.

6. (Currently amended) A method of assembling steering columns according to ~~claim 1~~ or claim 2, wherein in forming said column jacket, a cylindrical column jacket is formed from an Al-Mn alloy tube.